

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Government of the Northwest Territories



Cover photo: George Tatsiechele teaches Wiilhideh to Kaw Tay Whee students at PWNHC's Birch Syrup Camp.

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Message from the Minister



Languages are a source of identity and connection to culture and community. They are integral to healthy communities, individual self-esteem and the growth and development of people. It is through the use of language that people express their unique world view and values.

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is home to many different languages and cultures, and recognizes 11 languages in the NWT *Official Languages Act*: Chipewyan, Cree, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tłıchǫ. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to supporting and strengthening these languages as they hold within them a great deal of knowledge about the unique histories, cultures and lands within the NWT.

The 2016-2017 Annual Report on Official Languages reviews the progress we have made in the past year towards the promotion, development, enhancement and delivery of all official languages' programs and services. This year's report highlights the work Indigenous language partners are doing to revitalize, promote and preserve Indigenous languages, and shows the progress made in the implementation of French language services across the territory.

In 2016, the GNWT continued to enact its commitment to reconciliation through recognizing the right of Indigenous governments to manage their own Indigenous language revitalization efforts. The results of these efforts are seen through the dedicated work of Regional Indigenous Language Coordinators to implement their Regional Indigenous Language Plans, through the radio, television and news magazine services provided by Indigenous broadcasting societies, and through the many Indigenous language initiatives and services offered by GNWT departments and agencies across the NWT.

In 2016, the GNWT continued the implementation of the GNWT French Language Communications and Services Strategic Plan. As part of their ongoing collaboration, the GNWT and the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) Consultation and Cooperation Committee met to review progress on the implementation of French language services. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the progress made and to discuss the challenges and gaps that remain to ensure the ongoing successful implementation of the plan.

I want to acknowledge and thank the numerous organizations and individuals who have contributed to the success of all of the programs and services that have enhanced and revitalized our official languages in the NWT. Your devotion and efforts are providing a future for all of our official languages.

Mársı, Kinanāskomitin, Thank you, Merci, Haı', Quana, Qujannamiik,
Quyanainni, Máhsı, Máhsı and Mahsı,

Honourable Alfred Moses
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

PART I: Indigenous Languages



Northwest Territories Indigenous Languages

The Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada with 11 official languages. The *Official Languages Act* recognizes:

Chipewyan, Cree, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tłıchǫ.



French is spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.
English is spoken throughout the Northwest Territories.

NWT Indigenous Languages Framework – A Shared Responsibility

Indigenous languages reflect the distinct histories and cultures of this land; to speak one's own language provides a sense of identity, pride and supports social cohesion. The knowledge expressed through languages benefits not just the culture from which it comes, but also contributes to the sum total of all knowledge.



The *Northwest Territories Indigenous Languages Framework – A Shared Responsibility* (2017) sets out a framework for strengthening and supporting Indigenous languages over the next three years. It describes the vision, goals and priority areas for Indigenous language revitalization and emphasizes that all people in all communities in the NWT share the responsibility of Indigenous language revitalization through active promotion, preservation, celebration and use of Indigenous languages.

The new NWT Indigenous Languages Framework is the result of the hard work and various contributions of many key language partners across the NWT. It recognizes and supports the understanding that responsibility for language is shared between individuals, families, language communities, governments and the broader society. It conveys that all residents must be responsible for doing their part to support Indigenous language use.

The following documents were foundational in the development of this Framework and have been used to inform the development of the three-year Action Plan:

- The 2003 Special Committee Review of the *Official Languages Act: One Land, Many Voices*;
- The 2009 Standing Committee on Government Operation's Review of the *Official Languages Act: Reality Check: Securing a Future for the Official Languages of the NWT*; and
- The 2010 *NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility*.

Each of these reports was written with extensive territory-wide engagement and reflects the voices of Indigenous language experts, Elders and northerners.

Shared Vision:

An NWT where Indigenous languages are supported, respected and thriving as languages of communication by all people.

To achieve this vision, the 2017 NWT Indigenous Languages Framework identifies two goals: language revitalization and language access, each with three priority areas – policy, advocacy, and programs and resources.



The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is currently developing the accompanying Action Plan and Evaluation Plan to support the implementation of this Framework. It is expected to be released in fall 2017.



Minister Moses meets with members of the Official Languages Board and Aboriginal Language Revitalization Board in September 2016.

NWT Language Boards

The *Official Languages Act* of the Northwest Territories establishes both an Official Languages Board (OLB) and an Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board (ALRB).

Official Languages Board (OLB)	Aboriginal Language Revitalization Board (ALRB)
Members represent each of the 11 official languages and advise the Minister Responsible for Official Languages on matters related to the administration and delivery of GNWT official language services.	Members represent the nine Aboriginal official languages and advise the Minister Responsible for Official Languages on matters related to programs and initiatives that maintain, promote and revitalize Aboriginal languages.

Appointments to the OLB and ALRB are made by the Commissioner on the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister and on the nomination of the prescribed representative of each of the language communities. Appointees must be residents of the NWT and serve at pleasure for a term of two years.

As of August 2017, all current board members terms expired. There is no active organization representing the NWT Inuktitut language community. The 2015-2017 board membership is listed below.

Official Languages Board			Aboriginal Language Revitalization Board		
Language	Member	Alternate	Language	Member	Alternate
Cree	Vance Sanderson	Mary Cardinal	Cree	Vance Sanderson	Mary Cardinal
Inuvialuktun	Beverly Amos	Albert Elias	Inuvialuktun	Beverly Amos	Albert Elias
Inuinnaqtun	Emily Kudlak	Joshua Oliktoak	Inuinnaqtun	Emily Kudlak	Joshua Oliktoak
Gwich'in	Mary Ross	Sarah Jerome	Gwich'in	Lillian Helen Greenland	Sarah Jerome
Chipewyan	Expired	Expired	Chipewyan	Expired	Expired
North Slavey	Theresa Etchinelle	Jane Modeste	North Slavey	Dora Grandjambe	Anne Kochon-Orlias
South Slavey	Emma Amundson	Jonas Landry	South Slavey	Jonas Landry	Emma Amundson
Tłıchǫ	Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault	Lucy Lafferty	Tłıchǫ	Wendy Mantla	Nora Wedzin
French	Richard Létourneau	Jean de Dieu Tuyishime			

The Standing Committee on Government Operations, in its 2009 review of the *Official Languages Act*, recommended the amalgamation of the two languages boards. In April 2015, members of both boards agreed to move toward an amalgamation of boards, which will require a legislative proposal and amendments to the *Official Languages Act*, both of which are currently being developed.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRCC) made 94 Calls to Action in their Final Report.

The TRCC identified five Calls to Action specific to language and culture:

13. ... acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.

14. ... enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates:

- Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society.
- Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
- The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation.
- The preservation, revitalization and strengthening of Aboriginal languages are best managed by Aboriginal people.
- Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.

15. ... appoint, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner. The commissioner should help promote Aboriginal languages and report on the adequacy of federal funding of Aboriginal languages initiatives.

16. ... create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.

17. ... enable residential school survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licences, health cards, status cards and social insurance numbers.

The GNWT commits to working actively to nurture and promote Aboriginal language use in partnership with Indigenous governments and communities through the *Official Languages Act*, and supports the objectives of the recommendations by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission under this theme. The GNWT encourages the federal government to take appropriate action to ensure that Indigenous language programming is adequately funded.

The GNWT can proudly say that it has an *Official Languages Act* that includes nine official Indigenous languages and that the NWT Legislative Assembly appoints a Languages Commissioner. The GNWT also has taken steps to ensure Indigenous governments have the right to manage their own language revitalization efforts. More specifically, in 2016-2017:

- The GNWT proposed legislative changes to the *Vital Statistics Act* and the *Change of Name Act* to enable reclamation of single names, if desired, since legislation currently requires two names on a birth certificate. Once implemented, residents will be able to register their name in an Aboriginal language, as the restriction of roman alphabet-only names is removed. The *Vital Statistics Act* Bill was introduced to the Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2016.
- The Department of Health and Social Services supported waiving the fee to file a change of name application to reclaim names changed by the residential school system and to issue a new birth certificate in that name without charge.
- The Department of Transportation amended the *General Identification Card Regulations* and the *Driver's License Regulations* under the *Motor Vehicles Act* to provide the Registrar of Motor Vehicles with the authority to waive the fee required for name changes, for clients wishing to reclaim names that were changed under the residential school system.



TRCC Bentwood Box holds the many different offerings made to commemorate personal journeys toward healing and reconciliation.

Signing of the Canada-NWT Official Languages Agreement

In March 2017, a new four-year Official Languages Agreement between the GNWT and the Government of Canada was signed. The Agreement provides multi-year federal funding of \$42,102,000 to the GNWT to support nine official Indigenous languages and French. The Agreement is effective from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020, and will ensure the continuity of programming and services in the Indigenous languages for the period of the Agreement.

At this time, the increased funding will support the following programs and initiatives:

- Continued implementation and strengthening of Regional Indigenous Language Plans;
- Increased funding to community radio stations contributions;
- Strengthened operation of Teaching and Learning Centres (TLCs);
- Community supports, including on-the-land resources, use of cultural experts and professional development opportunities administered through TLCs;
- Reinstating the Interpreter Training Program; and
- Creation of a new Territorial Linguist position.



New NWT-Canada Cooperation Agreement announcement made on May 26, 2017. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Alfred Moses (left), NWT MP Michael McLeod (centre), and Nunakput MLA Herbert Nakimayak (right).

Five-year Regional Indigenous Languages Plans

The promotion, preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages are best managed by Indigenous people and communities, and as such, regional Indigenous governments now have control over the management of their own language revitalization efforts.

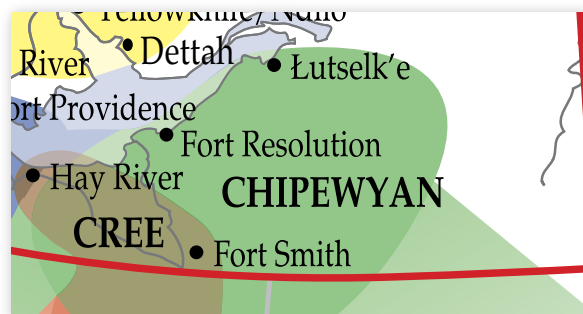
Regional Indigenous governments receive annual contributions from the GNWT to administer their respective Indigenous language programs and services, which support locally developed revitalization goals. As part of the funding agreement, each regional Indigenous government has developed a Regional Indigenous Language Plan, which identifies region and language specific revitalization visions, goals and actions.

Regional Indigenous governments and their respective language communities are in the fourth year of implementing their five-year Regional Indigenous Language Plans.

The following pages outline highlights from 2016-2017.

Chipewyan – Dëne Sų́nė – Dëne Dėdłínė

Akaičto Territory Government (ATG)



Vision:

The Chipewyan language is recognized, respected and spoken in homes and the community. Opportunities for learning Chipewyan exist for young children, school students and adults. The Chipewyan language is used in public meetings and by leadership.

Goals:

- ✓ To preserve the traditional pronunciation and use of our languages.
- ✓ To encourage use of our language in day-to-day life.
- ✓ To allow all of our communities and community members to be familiar with and participate in regional language activities, and to encourage widespread coordination and support for languages activities.
- ✓ To support consistent and long-term regional language program development, delivery and evaluation.
- ✓ To ensure local, First Nation, regional, territorial and national governments include Elders as advisors.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

In the Akaičto region, a variety of ongoing programs and activities contribute to the revival of the Dëne Sų́nė language (Chipewyan), including the installation of Unicode compliant keyboard tools on all Akaičto Territory Government computers, providing an additional technological tool for all employees to create documents in the local Indigenous orthography.

The Yellowknives Dene continue to interview, digitize and translate audio recordings of Elders, providing language learning and traditional knowledge materials for young learners and family members; trainees are building language documentation capacity by transcribing historic audio recordings of Elders; and new terminology is being incorporated into booklets for distribution.

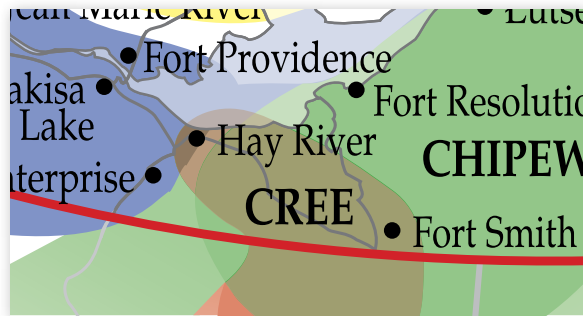
The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation builds excitement through community language scavenger hunts to engage students' curiosity about the vocabulary; words and sentences are displayed monthly to build interest, encourage language use, and model word spelling; on-the-land programming is offered for language immersion learning; and local terminology workshops provide an opportunity for community members to learn how to read and write in the language.

In Deninu Kúé (Fort Resolution), language classes, Elder/youth story time and scavenger hunts promote community involvement in language activities; traditional skills are practiced at moose-hide tanning workshops, drumming workshops and youth handgames tournaments; and transcription and writing activities keep the language current.

In Smith's Landing, children's books are translated into Dëne Sų́nė, and local culture activities like berry picking, dryfish making, snowshoe making, sewing sessions and Chipewyan culture camp connect Elders, youth and community members.

Cree – Nēhiyawēwin

NWT Métis Nation (NWTMN)



Vision:

Cree will be the main means of communication that connects us with our past; strengthens our social, emotional and spiritual well-being; and reinforces the importance of our traditions, culture and modern way of life.

Goals:

- ✓ Revitalize the language and encourage community involvement.
- ✓ Develop language resources and incorporate technology.
- ✓ Provide Cree language education and training programs.
- ✓ Maintain administration, finances and reporting.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

The 2016-2017 fiscal year was very productive for the Cree Language Program. A Medicinal Plant Guide was distributed throughout the South Slave Region, describing the benefits of 12 different plants, along with photo captions and information in Cree and English. Elder knowledge and advice are a richly important part of the guide's content.

A film/video game language workshop was held in Fort Smith for youth, put on by Western Arctic Moving Pictures in partnership with the Cree Program. High school students learned about animation and making short films alongside experienced editors and language specialists. As well, Cree language classes on the Hay River Reserve were delivered by The Yamozha Kue Society and Culture Days evening classes were put on for students in collaboration with Aurora College.

Equipment has been purchased and a location secured for a CKLB Radio project. Although still in the planning stages, a radio station will be a great addition to the community that will give listeners music and a voice for our languages. *Three Feathers* – a motion picture dubbed in Cree, Dene Dédliné (Chipewyan), Dene Yatíé (South Slavey) and English – wrapped up filming this year and is expected to premiere later in 2017.

The 2017-2019 Language Calendar was completed for distribution in Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Resolution. The three-year calendar showcases youth photography and elder quotes.



2017-2019 Cree Language Calendar (left) and Plant Guide (right).

Gwich'in – Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik

Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC)



Vision:

In five years, the Gwich'in language will be revitalized and no longer critically endangered. Gwich'in citizens will live, breathe and speak Gwich'in.

Goals:

- ✓ To ensure traditional language is passed on.
- ✓ To provide opportunities for community members to participate in our language.
- ✓ To allow participation in regional language activities, and to encourage widespread coordination and support for language activities.
- ✓ To ensure language programs are based on current evidence-based research.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

Gwich'in language classes have been gaining popularity as instructors employ different learning methods and games that focus on speaking and pronunciation. Each year, progress is made in delivering effective lessons and working through challenges such as access to learning materials, course location and timing.

During Indigenous Languages Month in March, a tea and bannock event was offered, inviting people to come in, watch legends and play games in Gwich'in; the radio shows focussed on the Gwich'in language Gwich'in words were placed in local stores to identify products; and greeting posters were distributed in community buildings.

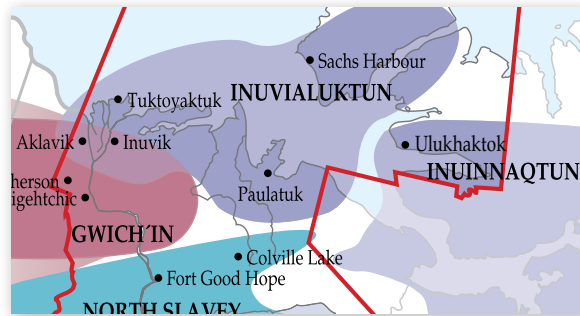
A Mentor-Apprentice Program workshop was held for 23 participants from Aklavik, Inuvik and Fort McPherson on February 7 and 8, 2017. With support from the First Peoples Cultural Council in Brentwood, BC, the two-day workshop paired fluent speakers as mentors with language learners as apprentices. It was very inspirational to listen to apprentices speaking in the Gwich'in language by the second day.



Participants in the Gwich'in Mentor-Apprentice Program workshop.

Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)



Vision:

Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun will be the main means of communication that connects us with our past; strengthens our social, emotional and spiritual well-being; and reinforces the importance of our traditions, culture and modern way of life.

Goals:

- ✓ Ensure adequate and dedicated resources to encourage language revitalization.
- ✓ Revitalize the language and encourage broader community involvement.
- ✓ Incorporate technology.
- ✓ Strengthen professional language training and education.
- ✓ Maintain administration, finances and reporting.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

This year, the Inuvialuit region was kept busy with many different language events and cultural activities. Language classes, CBC radio word-of-the-week, on-the-land programs and sewing classes hosted by the communities continue to be an effective way to get the communities involved in traditional and language activities.

The Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre works closely with Beaufort Delta Education Council on resource development for the schools in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) and wrote six books in three dialects this year. They actively translate for different organizations and will be doing a follow up terminology workshop to the November/December 2015 workshop.

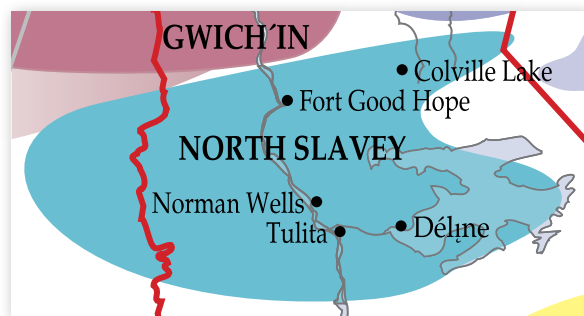
Digital Library North from the University of Alberta, including four professors and Elder Agnes White, travelled to the ISR communities to continue work on the Digital Library website.



Handmade Inuvialuit dolls.

North Slavey – Sahtúot'íne Yatı

Sahtú Dene Council (SDC)



Vision:

The North Slavey language and culture will be strong and people will be proud. Our children will know their language and culture. There will be strong knowledge of Dene Laws for the whole community and for the youth.

Goals:

- ✓ To preserve the traditional pronunciation and use of our languages.
- ✓ To encourage use of our language in day-to-day life.
- ✓ To allow all participation in regional language activities, and to encourage widespread coordination and support for languages activities.
- ✓ To support use of the languages in workplaces.
- ✓ To acknowledge that our languages are fundamental and complex.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

This year, the Sahtú Secretariat Inc. (SSI) hosted the 2nd Sahtú Terminology Workshop in Tulita. The theme was 'Strengthening Our People' and 20 participants attended – two Elders and two youth from each community. The SSI is especially thankful to the Elders for their wise voices about the language. During the workshop, terms from last year were reviewed and more terms were added, such as *Godı edts'é láhtanaeyá* ('download'), *Yát'a k'énale godı híhchu* ('satellite'), and *Godı bet'á heots'ehríshq* ('Facebook'). The group also covered some paradigm structures, such as *Dlóonehwhé/Dlóonıwé/Dlóogenıwé* ('smiling'; Déline dialect), *Rágohyá/Rágoyá/Rágokayá* ('playing'; Fort Good Hope dialect), and *Fıtı/Fáhtı* ('sleeping'; Tulita dialect).

In Déline, cultural days for the community were held, setting up stations for Elders to demonstrate cultural and traditional skills for the public. Stations included moose-hide scraping, pemmican, jam, moccasins, mitts and jewelry making.

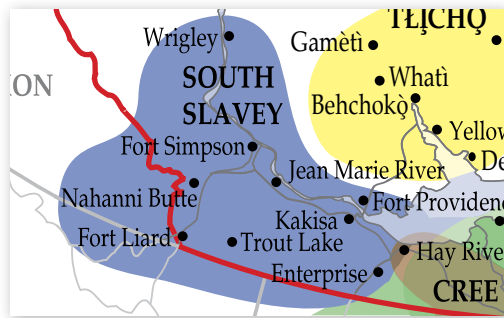
Community Language Coordinators held a variety of other community activities in the Sahtú, including language camps, sewing and language classes, handgames competitions, on-the-land programs for Elders and youth, and Elders programs in preschool centres.



Strengthening Our People participants at the 2nd Sahtú Terminology Workshop.

South Slavey – Dene Zhatié

Dehcho First Nation (DFN)



Vision:

The language of the Dehcho Dene will be maintained as an important part of all social, cultural and political activities, and will be the main language used for Dehcho Dene culture and values. The Elders will assist in planning, preserving and developing the Dene Zhatié language through traditional community consultations, in the context of healthy lifestyles.

Goals:

- ✓ To preserve the traditional pronunciation and use of our language.
- ✓ To encourage the use of our language in day-to-day life.
- ✓ To allow participation in regional language activities, and encourage widespread coordination and support for language activities.
- ✓ To ensure that all language activities meet minimum standards.
- ✓ To ensure access to all required training and certifications.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

On-the-land camps (that range from one week to two weeks) still continue in all communities. Elders play a huge role during the camps with their expertise in traditional and cultural activities, and the use and encouragement of Dene Zhatié throughout. This is an effective way to get the community together and involved in revitalizing the Dene Zhatié. While on the land, youth are taught on-the-land skills, safety, methods of preserving fish and moose meat, taught and told stories of traditional place names and landmarks, setting up camp, hunting, snaring, traditional food preparation, and learning about types of medicinal plants.

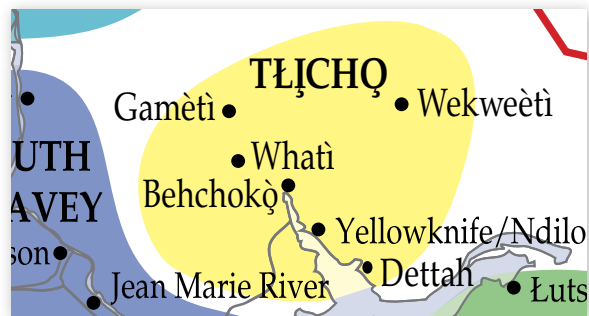
Traditional moose-hide tanning was demonstrated and taught to young girls and women by the women and Elders. They learned the methods and steps of tanning moose-hide and the tools used for each process while tanning the moose-hide.

Communities held evening sewing classes, language classes and traditional drum making classes. Young people were eager to participate and learn. The classes were instructed in Dene Zhatié with the Elders. They learned skills to revive and maintain traditional clothing such as moose hide slippers and moose-hide/beaver mitts. Stories in Dene Zhatié were also told during classes.

Twelve students have completed the Aboriginal Language Revitalization Program, a two-year diploma program with the University of Victoria. It was delivered with great success in partnership with the Dehcho First Nations, Dehcho Education Council and the University of Victoria.

Tłıchq

Tłıchq Government (TG)



Vision:

Tłıchq will be spoken, listened to, preserved, respected and understood so that the Tłıchq people can be “strong like two people”.

Goals:

- ✓ Strengthen Tłıchq identity.
- ✓ Promote healing.
- ✓ Preserve the language.
- ✓ Revitalize the language.

Highlights from 2016-2017:

The Tłıchq Interpreter/Translator Training Program was developed in response to an ongoing need in our region in various areas. The four-week program and week-long practicum included course work on the role of the Interpreter/Translator, professional behaviour and ethics, interpreting – consecutive and simultaneous modes, translation skills, Tłıchq literacy, and terminology development. Family members and regional leaders celebrated the hard work of the 23 graduates and instructors at a graduation ceremony.

The four-week on-the-land drum making project taught 12 youth how to harvest the right materials to make a Tłıchq drum with the help of three very skilled Elders. The project included making offerings to the land prior to harvesting, learning the steps to make a drum from beginning to end and practicing songs using the beautiful new drums.

In the communities of Whatì, Wekweètì and Behchokò, Elders and youth went out on the lakes and water ways to engage in a variety of traditional activities, including cleaning grave sites, collecting debris to maintain the land, learning traditional place names, setting and checking the fish nets, and storytelling. Being out on-the-land allows the Elders and youth to spend quality time connecting in a meaningful way through the traditional activities while using the Tłıchq yati.



The Imbe Program conducted by each community in our region gives high school and post-secondary students the opportunity to stay connected to the Tłıchq culture and language by having students work with Elders in a variety of activities. During this time, the students are encouraged to use and acquire more Tłıchq yati. In addition to this, the students in the program are given Tłıchq language lessons that focus on pronunciation and basic reading and writing skills. Students regularly share how they love their language and want to learn more.

Tłıchq youth prepares a hide during drum making project.

Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat (ILES)

The Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat (ILES) was established within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) to support the preservation, promotion and revitalization of Indigenous languages throughout the NWT. ILES provides support to regional Indigenous governments, Teaching and Learning Centres (TLCs), and Indigenous language and culture-based education programs. ILES also works closely with all GNWT departments to support them in their use of languages.

The primary responsibility of the ILES is to:

- Provide *Official Languages Act and Regulations* oversight and accountability for Indigenous languages;
- Manage, negotiate and administer the Indigenous languages component of the *Canada-Northwest Territories Agreement on French Language Services and Indigenous Languages*, and GNWT Indigenous language investments;
- Provide support for the implementation of five-year Regional Indigenous Language Plans, working closely with Regional Indigenous Language Coordinators;
- Provide monitoring, evaluation and accountability planning and reporting for Regional Indigenous Language Plans;
- Advance the development of Indigenous language terminology and standardization in partnership with Indigenous language communities;
- Support the delivery of early childhood, JK-12 and post-secondary Indigenous language programming;
- Maintain an NWT-wide interpreter/translator list for Indigenous languages;
- Support GNWT departments to deliver government-services in Indigenous languages; and
- Facilitate relationships between Indigenous governments, Indigenous language communities, education bodies, TLCs and NWT schools.

Indigenous Languages Month

In the NWT, March is Indigenous Languages Month and is dedicated to celebrating the richness of language and culture. It is a great opportunity to encourage people to learn about and use the nine Indigenous languages with pride and honour.

This year ECE celebrated Indigenous languages Month by:

- Recognizing Indigenous and Francophone bilingual GNWT employees in Bear Facts, L'Aquilon and News/North advertisements, in partnership with the Francophone Affairs Secretariat;
- Supporting an NWT Literacy Council workshop in April with Regional Language Coordinators and other community representatives; and
- Promoting the #MyLanguageMatters social media campaign on the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat Facebook page.



2016-2017 bilingual employee advertisements.

NWT Indigenous Languages Facebook Page

The Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat (ILES) launched the NWT Indigenous Languages Facebook page during the 2016 Indigenous Languages Month. This Facebook page connects NWT residents with news and resources on NWT Indigenous languages, provides language revitalization practices and promotes language learning.

The page serves as a platform to communicate with the people of NWT communities regarding all nine official Indigenous languages and encourage them to learn the languages of the territory.

Language use strengthens cultural identity and, in turn, contributes to student success, healthy families and communities, and increased economic prosperity.

Check out the page, today, at: <https://www.facebook.com/NWTIndigenousLanguages/>



NWT Indigenous Languages Facebook page cover photo.

Indigenous Language Broadcasting

Contributions are provided to Indigenous broadcasting organizations to ensure production and distribution of radio and television programming and news releases in the NWT Indigenous languages, including the Native Communications Society of the NWT (NCS) and the Inuvialuit Communication Society (ICS).



NCS's mission is to revitalize, strengthen and preserve our Indigenous cultures through radio and television communications technology and new mediums as developed. We will provide quality Indigenous programming to educate, inform, entertain and raise awareness of our cultures, languages, music, values and beliefs.

NCS produces radio language programming in South Slavey, Tłıchǫ, North Slavey, Dëne Sųłné and Gwich'in, providing access to vital information to 33 communities across the NWT. The Saturday Afternoon Request Show and the weekday morning show, Denendeh Sunrise, continue to be popular shows.



CKLB 101.9 Radio building in Yellowknife.



ICS aims to celebrate the voices, people, heritage and culture of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. In 2016-2017, ICS continued to produce their very popular news magazine, *Tusaayaksat*, creating four 80-page issues with subscription rates increasing to over 200.

ICS also shot seven episodes of *Tusaayaksat TV* which capture and highlight the events and people in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. These episodes are being prepared for broadcast on APTN. The TV production crew was also able to travel and get five of six episodes shot for *Inuit Away*, a travel documentary series produced for APTN as well. The sixth episode will be shot in the fall of 2017.

Through the programming done at ICS, with TV productions and magazine coverage, ICS has been able to visit all six communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region this past year and have captured stories, vision and confidence in Inuvialuit culture. ICS was able to see first-hand the changes in the communities and help tell stories from outside of the main operating community of Inuvik.



Summer 2016 – Arctic Winter Games



Fall 2016 – Game Changers



Winter 2016 – Our Sacred Land



Spring 2017 – The Hockey Issue

Community Broadcasting Grant Program

The Community Broadcasting Grant Program is designed to support operation costs of community radio stations in the NWT. The maximum grant to a community broadcasting organization is \$6,000 per year. Many of these community radio stations broadcast wholly or partly in Indigenous languages.

This year the following communities received Community Broadcasting Grants to operate community radio stations:

- Délı̨ne (CBQO Fort Franklin Radio Society);
- Fort Providence (Zhahti Koe Friendship Centre);
- Fort McPherson (CBQM Radio Society);
- Fort Good Hope (CBQE Chartered Community of K'asho Got'ine);
- Hay River (CKHR Hay River Broadcast Society);
- Behchokǝ (Rae-Edzo Friendship Centre); and
- Yellowknife (Radio Taı̨ga).



Kyle Camsell is the volunteer station manager of CKHR, the community radio station in Hay River.

ECE's Culture and Heritage Division

NWT Archives

The NWT Archives actively acquires, stores and reformats for preservation purposes, oral history materials generated in the NWT. In 2016-2017, the NWT Archives collaborated with ethnomusicologist Nicole Beaudry for the preparation of North Slavey audio recordings collected in the Sahtú. The NWT Archives delivered copies of 123 North Slavey audio recordings from the collection of Nicole Beaudry's recordings to the people of Délı̨ne.

The NWT Archives also produced a photo calendar of northern celebrations for 2017, with a different official language for each month of the year.



Winter Carnival, Hay River, 1960s.

Cultural Places Program

In 2016-2017, at the request of Smbaa K'e Dene First Nation, the community name of Trout Lake was officially changed to Smbaa K'e. As well, over 400 Dënesųliné place names submitted by the community of Łutselk'e were assessed.

A communications plan was initiated to facilitate consistent spelling of official geographic place names across all GNWT departments, and to increase awareness of official geographic names through websites and social media. The plan includes an autocorrect macro to be installed on all GNWT computers that automatically corrects the spelling of place names in the NWT as they are typed and enables GNWT staff to use the correct diacritics for place names.

The Culture and Heritage Division worked with the Geographical Names Board of Canada to create a map of official Indigenous place names across Canada by providing 50 official names from the NWT. This map will celebrate Indigenous toponymy for the 'Canada 150' celebrations.

The Culture and Heritage Division's work to officially recognize five Indigenous place names for the Mackenzie River was also featured in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Bulletin. The five new names for the Mackenzie River, in addition to the existing English and French names, are: Deho (North Slavey), Dehcho (South Slavey), Grande Rivière (Michif), Kuukpak (Inuvialuktun), and Nagwichoonjik (Gwich'in).



Smbaalq̃h Tłáh (Smbaa K'e Bay) from the Smbaa K'e Place.

Community Cultural Development

The Culture and Heritage Division supports projects with funding contributions to promote and encourage the use, preservation and promotion of NWT Indigenous languages. In 2016-2017, the following language projects were supported:

- **DehCho Friendship Centre** to conduct the Integrated Ladies' Sewing program, which will enhance traditional sewing skills, basic Dene language instruction and pass on traditional knowledge from Elders in the form of stories.
- **Déliné Land Corporation** to conduct the Déliné Mapping Project to develop an online glossary, vocabulary and terminology of Sahtú traditional knowledge.
- **Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Culture and Heritage**, in partnership with the Aurora Research Institute, to develop an educational garden in Inuvik, with local plants. The showcase will feature traditional knowledge as recorded by Gwich'in Elders.
- **Sahtú Renewable Resources Board** to produce the Déliné Song, Story and Games book project in North Slavey and English, focusing on specific traditions: singing, dancing, drumming, playing, story telling.
- **Tłıchǫ Government** to coordinate the Gamètì Drum Making Project to learn from Elders in the Tłıchǫ language, techniques for harvest of materials and preparation of drums.
- **Ulukhaktok Community Corporation** to host an annual Summer Family Language Camp to preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity by teaching traditional skills such as hunting, fishing, meat preparation, Inuinnaqtun language classes and sewing.



George Tatsiechele teaches Wilhìdeh to Kaw Tay Whee students at PWNHC's Birch Syrup Camp.

Heritage Education and Public Programs

The heritage education staff at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) continued to provide education programs and visitor services in several Indigenous languages in 2016-2017. This year, the PWNHC delivered school and public education programs in Tłıchǫ to nearly 750 participants.

Yellowknives Dene First Nation interpreters continued to provide school programs and tours of the PWNHC exhibit *This Land is Our Home: Wìlìdeh Yellowknives Dene*. This exhibit also served as a backdrop to Wìlìdeh 101, a weekend public workshop that saw a linguist and language speaker introduce 30 participants to basic Wìlìdeh dialect pronunciation and vocabulary.

Over 400 students benefitted from George Tatsiechele's language and culture instruction at the PWNHC's Birch Syrup Camp, learning traditional tree tapping techniques as well as tree and plant vocabulary in Wìlìdeh. (Photo previous page.)

Behchokǫ Elder Celine Whane and her assistant, Elizabeth Rabesca, from Whatì, taught Tłıchǫ language and culture to students at Daring Lake Tundra Science and Culture Camp held in July, 2016.



Celine Whane and Elizabeth Rabesca teach Tundra Science and Culture Camp students how to make bògqò (dry meat).

Exhibits

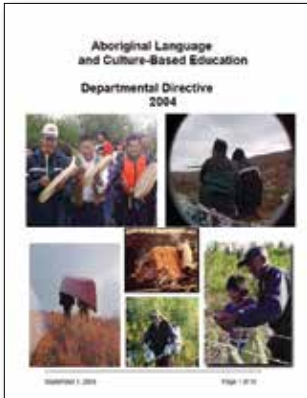
The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre promotes NWT official languages in museum exhibits and with a range of online exhibits. During 2016, all official languages were integrated into a new museum exhibit titled *Narrative Threads: Fils des Histories*, featuring traditional sewing and objects made by seamstresses and artisans from across the NWT.



Métis Moose-hide mittens made by Jane Gaudet, Tulita, NWT. 1979.

Indigenous Languages in Education

The NWT has the responsibility to ensure that Indigenous languages and culture are being taught in all NWT schools.



In September 2004, the ECE Minister issued a directive on Aboriginal Language and Culture-based Education (ALCBE). Aboriginal language and culture-based education is defined as education that reflects, validates and promotes the cultures and languages of the First Peoples of the NWT. It is education that honours all forms of traditional knowledge, ways of knowing and world views.

Indigenous language and culture-based activities explore the languages, cultures, histories, activities, skills, knowledge, traditions and values of Indigenous peoples of the NWT, and contain an Indigenous language acquisition component. The ALCBE Directive establishes the expectation that the NWT education system reflects, validates and promotes the cultures and languages of the Indigenous peoples of the NWT, and that it honours all forms of traditional knowledge, ways of knowing and world views.



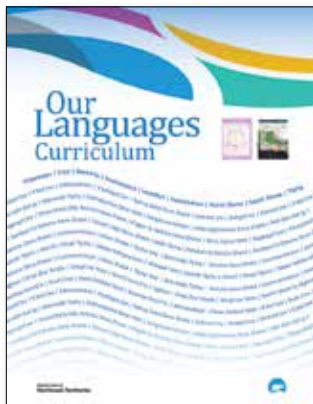
Key cultural experiences ground NWT students in culture and language.

Indigenous Language and Culture Curricula

In the Indigenous world view, culture and language are interconnected; culture is language and language is culture. To respect this world view and to assist educators, ECE has created two overarching curricula: *Dene Kede* and *Inuuqatigiit*. School staff are expected to infuse this Indigenous world view in all of their teachings, using the curriculum appropriate to their school and community.



In 2016, ECE staff began the research and development of Our Languages – a new curriculum for Indigenous language instruction in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 core Indigenous language classes throughout the NWT. The draft curriculum is aligned with the two foundational documents, *Dene Kede* and *Inuuqatigiit*, and focuses on student attainment of five language learning levels: Emergent, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Proficient. The Our Languages curriculum, Emergent level, will be piloted in select NWT schools in the 2017-2018 school year.



Indigenous Language Learning

The NWT *Education Act* allows education bodies the ability to provide Indigenous language learning through first language instruction, immersion and second language instruction. The level of language programming is largely dependent on sufficient demand, availability of qualified teachers who are fluent speakers, and availability of sufficient and suitable program materials.

In most NWT schools, English is the main language of instruction and an Indigenous language or French is taught as a second language through either a second language, 'core language', approach or immersion. In a core language approach, students attend classes throughout the week in one of the official languages for a minimum of 90 hours per year from Grades 1 through 9.

In an immersion language approach, all regular instruction is taught in an Indigenous language. Indigenous language immersion classes are in place in three NWT communities: Behchokò, Inuvik and Fort Providence.

Additional Indigenous language courses for senior secondary students, Grades 10 to 12, are also available in some schools.



Tłıchų youth and Elders making drums.

Teaching and Learning Centres

The mandate of regional Teaching and Learning Centres (TLCs) is the preservation and enhancement of Indigenous language and culture through the promotion of literacy and the integration of local language and culture in school programs. TLCs provide support to NWT schools for their Indigenous language and cultural programs, including:

- Developing language resources to support *Dene Kede* and *Inuuqatigiit*;
- Coordinating training for Indigenous language instructors;
- Coordinating on-the-land language and culture camps;
- Collaborating with language instructors in schools;
- Planning for regional education conferences;
- Conducting training for *Dene Kede* or *Inuuqatigiit* ; and
- Providing direction on program development through participation in committees and working groups.

Once again, each of the TLCs have been hard at work finding interesting ways to incorporate language learning into new and existing programming.

Beaufort Delta Teaching and Learning Centres

The Beaufort Delta TLCs are managed by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC). The TLCs provide support to language instructors and residents, assisting visitors with library resources, information and in-house published material. In 2016, the GTC TLC launched a new Cultural Heritage website, by its Department of Cultural Heritage, which features more than two decades of research with Gwich'in Elders, traditional land users and academic researchers. Also, Gwich'in language instructors attended an in-service in November in Fort McPherson on material development, curriculum and technology (phraselators, SmartBoards, Moodle). At the IRC TLC, the Inuvialuktun Language Officer assists language instructors and local businesses through on-going requests for translations, information and printed materials. The Inuvialuktun Language Officer assisted an Indigenous company, Ogoki, to have the Siglitun Inuvialuktun Language Word List/Phrases and Sentences recorded onto Language App, and is assisting with the Siglitun Inuvialuktun version of the App. Voice recordings of books are ongoing, and six books were published and sent to schools.



GTC's new Cultural Heritage website was launched in April 2016.

Dehcho Teaching and Learning Centre

This year, the Dehcho Divisional Education Council (DDEC) partnered with a number of organizations involved in language related work. To support regional language programs, the DDEC purchased regional productions, Dene Zhaté resources, food, fabric, beads, fur and hides to create authentic language experiences for learning and practice in class, and on the land. The TLC supports the University of Victoria Language Revitalization Diploma students in their courses by providing publications about language and culture, and materials in Dene Zhaté. Twelve students graduated from the two-year *Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization* program this year.



The Dehcho Diploma in Indigenous Languages Revitalization graduation in Fort Simpson, June 2016.

Sahtú Teaching and Learning Centre

This year, the Sahtú Divisional Education Council's goal was to increase support to Indigenous language programs in schools and communities. In order to achieve this, TLC staff travelled to communities to meet with language instructors, visit the school, and attend courses.

The TLC coordinator worked with language instructors to teach Dene songs to students and encourage a focus on hand games. Language instructors worked with community members to work on the revitalization of culture. The coordinator also attended a teacher's conference, working with the facilitator to review traditional values, beliefs and Dene laws.

Cultural camps were held in the spring. Students and staff participated in activities such as preparing ducks, dry fish making, setting up camp and collecting wood or spruce boughs. Elders also hosted moose and caribou-hide tanning workshops.



*Rosie Takazo pounding
Etsí (pemmican).*

South Slave Teaching and Learning Centre

The South Slave Divisional Education Council has a dynamic team supporting and promoting the languages of the South Slave. This year has seen the completion of filming for the *Three Feathers* movie, the first ever to be filmed in four different languages: Dene Yatıé (South Slavey), Dene Dédliné (Chipewyan), Cree and English. The challenge to shoot each scene four times in four different languages using the same cast was very rewarding. The release date is expected for the fall of 2017.

The First Nations storybook application was completed for iPad and iPhone in spring of 2016. This app has published 42 books as e-books and is available for listening in Dēne Sųłnė and viewing through the Apple App Store.

The Indigenous Language Children's Storybook Contest had many strong entries and the two winners will have their stories published as full colour children's books in English, Cree, Dene Yatıé (South Slavey) and Dene Dédliné (Chipewyan). Four runners-up will have their books published in electronic format.



"When I Was Little", by the students of Chief Sunrise School in Hay River, tells the story of Elder Clara Lafferty's childhood experiences.

Tłıchq Teaching and Learning Centres

The Tłıchq TLC focused on enriching the Tłıchq History Curriculum in schools throughout the region. Research, community visits and ongoing interviews were conducted with Elders to produce more resources for language teachers. The TLC continued to produce Tłıchq classroom resources in the forms of posters, flashcards and language materials in order to supplement the K-9 Language Immersion program. Flashcards about colours, family, the home, transportation, occupations, shapes and prepositions were produced and translated for teachers.



Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Teaching and Learning Centre

YK1 developed and delivered the Dene as a Second Language program to students at Mildred Hall School, teaching the Wìlìideh dialect of Tłıchq. A team of language instructors are working together every day to deliver the program to each grade, corresponding with themes of the *Dene Kede* curriculum. While many of the students are not immersed in the language in their home environment, YK1 has created an in-house language curriculum development team to provide as much exposure to Tłıchq as possible.



Dene as a Second Language program classes at Mildred Hall.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) Teaching and Learning Centre

YCS published and printed two books this year, *Sadee's Mittens* and *Dene Laws*. These books are used throughout the district in the primary and elementary schools. Providing language books to families allows for more access to learning the language in a way that seems obtainable and easy.

The YCS TLC supported Grade 10 Northern Studies students by providing speakers and hands-on project resources. An ongoing project is the development of two board games for the language program.



Author Miranda Currie reading her book "Sadee's Mittens".

Indigenous Language Instructor Training

The goal of the Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program (ALCIP) is to prepare individuals with the skills required to become qualified teachers of Indigenous Language and Culture courses in JK -12 schools. The ALCIP is delivered on a part-time basis throughout the NWT to provide both ongoing professional development and skills development to Indigenous language teachers who are currently employed as well as to interested community members. Aurora College School of Education staff work with the regional school boards to make sure that courses delivered in each region meet the professional development needs of the participants.

In 2016, six students successfully completed year one of the two-year full-time ALCIP diploma program offered in Tulita. The program was delivered in Chief Albert Wright School, starting with the “Re-connecting with Our Spirituality” camp. This was an excellent opportunity to bring students, staff and Elders together to build relationships, connecting theory with practice throughout the coursework.



Sahtú language workshops.

Government Services in Indigenous Languages

Indigenous Bilingual Bonus and Language Allowance

As prescribed by the *Union of Northern Workers Collective Agreement*, the GNWT provides a bilingual bonus to employees who use two or more of the official languages of the NWT, with the exception of employees who have assigned duties of translation and interpretation in their job descriptions. The bilingual bonus is offered where the ability to speak more than one official language is required to provide adequate service. A bilingual bonus may also be offered if the ability to speak a second official language is an asset to the position, i.e. when an employee occasionally provides assistance in another official language. Under both circumstances, the community or region the position serves determines the language used in the position.

In 2016-2017, 176 GNWT employees received an Indigenous language bilingual bonus.

Department/Agency/Board	Number of Employees
Education, Culture and Employment	9
Environment and Natural Resources	9
Executive	8
Industry, Tourism and Investment	7
Justice	4
Municipal and Community Affairs	3
Public Works and Services	2
Beaufort Delta DEC	1
Dehcho DEC	9
Sahtú DEC	4
South Slave DEC	1
Tłıchq CSA - Education	21
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority	38
Tłıchq CSA - HSS	55
NWT Housing Corporation	2
Workers' Safety and Compensation Committee	3
Total	176
Total Indigenous Language Bilingual Bonus Paid	\$162,141

As prescribed by the *NWT Teachers Association Collective Agreement*, the GNWT also provides a language allowance to teachers who are proficient in the use of one or more of the official Indigenous languages of the NWT.

Teachers who qualify receive an annual language allowance when using the skill in any or all of the following areas:

- Actual classroom teaching;
- Individual student counselling;
- Parent teacher interviews;
- Extracurricular activities; and/or
- School/community relations.

In 2016-2017, 61 teachers received an Indigenous language allowance.

Department/Agency/Board	Number of Employees
Beaufort Delta DEC	13
Dehcho DEC	11
Sahtú DEC	12
South Slave DEC	8
Tłıchǫ CSA - Education	17
Total	61
Total Indigenous Language Allowance Paid	\$298,901

Indigenous Languages Initiatives

- ECE created the “I am more than ABCs” campaign to raise awareness and understanding of *NWT Education Renewal*. The statement, “I am more than ABCs,” means that while it is critically important to develop strong basics like literacy and math skills, learning is about a lot more than just letters and numbers. Wellness, safety, relationship building, strengthening culture, language and identity are all important parts of learning as well. The campaign material was translated into eight official Indigenous languages.



- The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre delivered school and public education programs in Tłıchʔ to nearly 750 participants.
- The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation launched a housing engagement survey from December 2016 through February 2017 to support the renewal of its strategic plan. Indigenous languages speakers were able to take the survey in their language with the support of facilitators upon request.
- The Department of Justice provided Legal Aid services to 30 Indigenous language-speaking clients through the use of Tłıchʔ, South Slavey, Gwich'in and Dene Sul'ne (Chipewyan) interpreters.
- The Department of Justice also conducted an Elder law clinic in Tsiigehtchic. The clinic addressed wills, estates and power of attorney issues, and included a public legal education presentation. The Justice Coordinator – a Gwich'in speaker – was present on site to provide interpretation to ensure clients were able to gain a better understanding of the issues raised.
- Interpretation services are commonly used in the NWT Courts. In 2016-2017, Tłıchʔ, Sahtúq't'ine (North Slavey) and Dene Sul'ne (Chipewyan) interpreters were used on 46 occasions during Court procedures.

- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) produced three videos in Dëne Sųłné (Chipewyan), Gwich'in, Tłıchų, Sahtúot'ıne (North Slavey) and Dene Zhatıé (South Slavey) this year for the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, the NWT Environmental Audit and the Water Stewardship Action Plan.



ENR NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program video available on YouTube.

- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) coordinated the "Worth It" campaign, and launched campaign materials and messaging that included promotional items, posters, coffee sleeves and a micro website in Inuktitut. WSCC released 12 issues of the external stakeholder newsletter with the Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut versions on their website.
- The Department of Human Resources (HR) has continued to provide orientation sessions to new employees on the GNWT Indigenous languages responsibilities and requirements.
- The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) hosted "Let's Talk About Cancer" workshops in the Sahtú Region and also distributed Sahtúot'ıne (North Slavey) Cancer Glossary.
- The NWT Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) in the Beaufort-Delta Region distributed Nunavut's Human Anatomy Glossary as well as the PAUKTUUTIT's Kaggutiq (Inuit Cancer Glossary). Both resources provide visual and language support in Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun.



Government News Delivered in Indigenous Languages

When possible, the GNWT endeavours to deliver news and important information in Indigenous languages. In 2016-2017, highlights included:

- Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) celebrated Indigenous Languages Month in the Beaufort Delta by hosting an Inuvialuktun Café and Gwich'in Café with language games in the front lobby, and in the Fort Smith region, by hosting Indigenous coffee break and languages games.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) posted all media releases and news items in Inuktitut on their website. The Annual Report and Corporate Plan, translated in Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut, are available on their website.



Radio and Print Advertising in Indigenous Languages

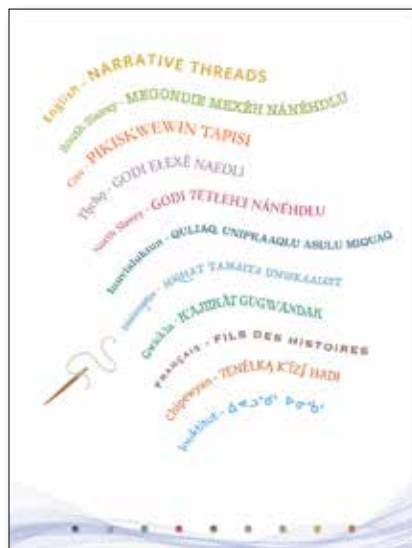
GNWT departments regularly make announcements and run advertisements in Indigenous languages on local radio stations and in local newspapers. In 2016-2017, highlights included:

- ECE's Culture and Heritage Division produced a photo calendar of northern celebrations for 2017, with a different official language for each month of the year.
- The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) promotion of their housing engagement survey involved communications in Indigenous languages through radio advertising with CKLB. Numerous radio notices over nearly two months encouraged the participation in the survey in Sahtúqt'ine (North Slavey), Dene Zhatié (South Slavey), Tłıchǫ, Gwich'in and Dëne Sųłné (Chipewyan). Additionally, marketing and promotions of NWT HC housing programs, including repair and rental programs, are advertised in Indigenous languages.
- The Department of Lands advertised on CKLB in Nēhiyawēwin (Cree), Dëne Sųłné (Chipewyan), Tłıchǫ, Sahtúqt'ine (North Slavey), Dene Zhatié (South Slavey) and Gwich'in for the Recreational Land Management Framework. Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and Inuvialuktun translations were not found in the allotted time.
- The Department of Transportation published information in Gwich'in about the connection of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway.
- WSCC places newspaper ads in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. This includes invitations to engage in consultation on various WSCC topics. Posters and resources are translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and available on their website.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources created public safety messaging on Bear Safety in all Indigenous languages. The Climate Change Framework Engagement was advertised in all Indigenous languages.

Indigenous Languages Translation Services

Translation services enable all departments to increase the quantity of public information and content available in Indigenous languages. In 2016-2017, highlights included:

- ECE's Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre promotes NWT official languages in museum exhibits and with a range of on-line exhibits. During 2016, all official languages were integrated into a new museum exhibit, titled *Narrative Threads: Fils des Histories*, featuring traditional sewing and objects made by seamstresses and artisans from across the NWT.
- The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) provided the following services in Indigenous languages:
 - In the North Slave Region, Tłıchʼo communities (Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì) programs were delivered in the Tłıchʼo language when required, and translations are provided for inquiries when needed.
 - In the Dehcho Region, Dene Zhatìé (South Slavey) translation is provided when required. As an example, translation was provided for a Regional Mineral Development workshop in Fort Simpson.
 - In the Sahtú Region, Sahtúq̓'ı̄ne (North Slavey) translation is provided when required. As an example, translation was arranged for a Resource Co-management workshop in Norman Wells.
- The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) provides direct services in Indigenous languages in Behchokò, Fort Simpson and Norman Wells.
- The Department of Lands' submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for the Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation for the Back River Project details its technical responses for the company's application for a gold mine. Translation of some of the material into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun included an Executive Summary and the slide presentation for use at the public hearing.
- WSCC completed 382 translations into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.



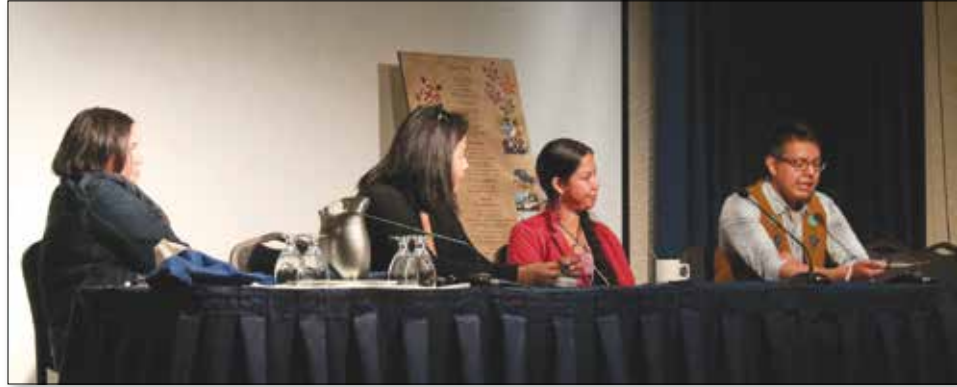
Narrative Threads: Fils des Histories exhibit panel at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

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- The Department of Justice (DOJ) provided a summary of an Eviction Order in Tłıchǫ based on a request made to the Rental Office by a tenant. While the use of interpreter services in an Indigenous language is common in DOJ, requests for official documents to be translated to an Indigenous language are relatively rare.
 - The Department of Indigenous Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (DAAIR) continues to have translation and interpretation services at its public information sessions with Indigenous governments. These services are provided in-kind by the Indigenous government.
 - The Department of Finance includes the Active Offer of translation services in all official languages in various public documents, as applicable. No requests were made for translation services of public documents in Indigenous languages during the year.
 - The Department of Human Resources (HR) offered Employee Long Service Awards translated in any of the NWT official languages.

Indigenous Languages Interpretation Services

GNWT departments provide interpretation services on an as needed basis. In 2016-2017, highlights included:

- ECE financially supported the Dene Languages Conference, June 2016, including interpreters for Indigenous languages.



Youth panel at 2016 Dene Languages Conference.

- The Department of Executive operates 20 Single Service Window offices across the NWT, eight of which are staffed with an Indigenous language speaker. Direct service is available in Tłıchǝ, Sahtúot'ıne (North Slavey), Inuinnaqtun and Dene Zhatıé (South Slavey).
- NWT Health and Social Services Authority contracts *CanTalk* to provide interpretation services at Stanton Territorial Hospital, Yellowknife, as well as in the Beaufort-Delta Region, Fort Smith Region and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority. In the Beaufort Delta, arrangements are made with external interpreters, available in the community, when needing help for language support.
- ENR Regional Offices contract services from local interpreters as required.
- Northwest Territories Housing Corporation programming is centred on face-to-face meetings with applicants to ensure that housing solutions are specifically tailored. Indigenous language users are supported through interpretation services.
- The Legislative Assembly provides interpretation in eight of the nine official Indigenous languages.
- Self-guided audio tours of the Legislative Assembly continue to be provided to visitors in all official languages of the Northwest Territories.

Indigenous Language Signage

Communities and government departments have been increasing their usage of Indigenous languages on public signage throughout the NWT. In 2016-2017, highlights included:

- The Government of Northwest Territories wordmark has been developed in all the official languages. On all new signs, Indigenous language(s) will appear first, followed by English and then French. If there is more than one Indigenous language, the order is then determined by the Official Language Coordinator of the region.
- ITI created a Tłıchǫ language highway sign for the North Arm Territorial Park and the exterior building sign for the Northwest Territories Geological Survey offices in Yellowknife.
- With support from the ITI Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) program, the Town of Tsiigehtchic replaced their main sign, written in the Gwichya Gwich'in dialect, meaning "fast moving water".



Town of Tsiigehtchic sign replaced.

- The Department of Public Works and Services (PWS) completed signage in the Highways Building for the Department of Justice Wellness Office with appropriate signage in Tłıchǫ. New signage was also installed in the Inuvialuit Development Corporation Building in Tuktoyaktuk.
- Department of Transportation Driver Examiner Office and Issuing Office in Yellowknife installed signs displayed in Tłıchǫ.
- Department of Justice installed Tłıchǫ signs at various locations across Yellowknife, including the offices of Community Legal Aid Outreach, Integrated Case Management and Rental Office.
- NWT Health and Social Services Authority – Beaufort-Delta Region: In-house signs were created for all departments and health centres of the regions.
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's Yellowknife office now has a "Welcome" sign at the reception area translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

- Municipal and Community Affairs worked with a Tłıchǫ interpreter to update the interior signage in the NorthwestTel Building on the 5th and 6th floors.

 Government of Northwest Territories / Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest			5
KŪTA GHĀ K'ĀODĒ	MUNICIPAL & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	AFFAIRES MUNICIPALES ET COMMUNAUTAIRES	
Kŭta Xē Eghālagide →	Community Operations →	Division des opérations communautaires →	
• Aslī Hohlē eyits'q La Ts'p K'āodē	• Infrastructure and Project Management	• Gestion des infrastructures et des projets	
• Kŭta Sqōmā T'ā Gits'ādī	• Community Financial Services	• Services financiers communautaires	
Kŭta Ghā Ndēts'p K'āowō →	Community Governance →	Affaires communautaires →	
• Aslī Wēdānāgeta	• Assessment Services	• Services d'évaluation foncière	
• Kŭta Xē Segots'ehiq	• Community Planning	• Planification communautaire	
Kŭta K'āodē ghā Nht'ēkō ē-	School of Community Government ←	École d'administration municipale ←	

- Lands arranged for translation of a new division name into Tłıchǫ for the Gallery building.
- Environment and Natural Resources created signage near Ptarmigan Mine in Tłıchǫ and on the Winter Road in Sahtúot'ıne (North Slavey).



GNWT Language Program Expenditures – Indigenous Languages (2016-2017)

In 2016-2017, ECE spent over \$7 million to fund the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat to support language programming and services across the NWT. Of this amount, more than \$3.5 million was provided directly to Indigenous governments to support the implementation of their Regional Indigenous Language Plans.

Description	Actual Expenditures
Indigenous languages services and programs	\$3,522,269
Contributions to Indigenous governments	\$3,590,168
Total	\$7,112,437



PART II: French



How We Approach Our Work

French Language Services at the Government of the Northwest Territories

Francophone Affairs Secretariat

The Francophone Affairs Secretariat offers advice, tools and support to departments and agencies of the GNWT for the purpose of developing plans on French Language Communications and Services. In addition, the Secretariat delivers French language translation services to government institutions such as GNWT departments, boards, agencies and the Legislative Assembly. The Francophone Affairs Secretariat manages Services TNO.

Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services

Introduced in 2012, the Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services (Strategic Plan) guides the implementation of improved services to the francophone community accessing GNWT services. The Strategic Plan includes three frameworks, which cover all aspects of French language service delivery, as well as roles and responsibilities of the GNWT.

French Language Services Coordinators

The general responsibility of the French Language Services Coordinators (FLSC) is to champion and coordinate the provision of quality French language communications and services by their respective departments, boards and agencies.

GNWT Standards for French Language Communications and Services

The GNWT Standards for French Language Communications and Services (Standards) were adopted in 2013 to assist employees in the delivery of communications and services in French to the public. The Standards include information on voice mail, signage, publication format, advertisements and French translation.

Progress for French Language Services

Government institutions such as departments, boards and agencies improved communications and services in French in various ways during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The 2016-2017 Annual Report on Official Languages outlines many of these improvements for the GNWT. Progress is structured around the goals of the Operating Plans on French Language Communications and Services.

Goal 1: Leadership and Policy Direction

Government institutions have active leadership and policy direction for communications and services in French.

Public Feedback



Receiving and responding to public feedback is an important part of improving GNWT communication and service delivery in French to the public. The Strategic Plan includes a detailed process to receive and respond to public feedback about the quality of communication and service. In 2016-2017, the Francophone Affairs Secretariat created a feedback form and began promoting the process more widely to the public. Promotional resources and training were developed for staff at points of public service to enable them to facilitate the feedback process. FLSC of GNWT departments, boards and agencies work together with the Secretariat to ensure appropriate follow-up to public feedback received to ensure the GNWT is providing services and programs that are consistent and useful.

413

Number of translation requests of job posters

3

Judges received French training throughout the year

40

Inquiries in French for Legal Aid

Signing of the Canada-NWT Official Languages Agreement

In March 2017, a new four-year Official Languages Agreement between the GNWT and the Government of Canada was signed. The Agreement provides multi-year federal funding of \$42,102,000 to the GNWT to support French and nine official Indigenous languages. The Agreement is effective from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. The funding will support the implementation, administration and promotion of the Strategic Plan, including:

- The provision of French translation and interpretation services to GNWT departments, the Legislative Assembly, boards and agencies for all documents intended for the public.
- French language services to the public through Services TNO.
- Advertisements in L'Aquilon and Radio Taïga, website and staff support to GNWT departments, the Legislative Assembly, boards and agencies.

French Language Proficiency Tests

In 2016-2017, the former Department of Human Resources (HR) worked to improve the GNWT French language proficiency guideline to assist departments and agencies in determining the level of proficiency required for French Bilingual Required positions and French Bilingual Preferred status. The department worked with the Collège nordique francophone to first develop and then roll out French Language Proficiency Tests. HR took a phased approach to testing French Bilingual GNWT staff. HR identified all bilingual required positions, and departments and agencies identified the proficiency levels required for these positions. All individuals with Bilingual Preferred status have also been identified. All individuals in Bilingual Required positions have completed testing while more than half of individuals with Bilingual Preferred status have completed the testing. In addition, HR has included French Language Proficiency Testing for bilingual competitions into the recruitment process and modified the Human Resources Manual to reflect the changes with French Language Proficiency Assessment.

Goal 2: Availability and Accessibility

Government institutions have increased capacity to offer and provide communications and services in French.

The prevalence and awareness of French language services has been increased through the active offer, communications, printed and electronic materials, and by increasing the capacity of the public service to offer services in French.

Bilingual Bonus

The GNWT provides a bilingual bonus to employees who use two or more of the official languages of the NWT. The bilingual bonus is offered where the ability to speak more than one official language is required to provide adequate service. A bilingual bonus may also be offered if the ability to speak a second official language is an asset to the position.

Department/Agency/Board	Number of Employees
Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations	3
Education, Culture and Employment	12
Commission scolaire francophone	5
Environment and Natural Resources	11
Executive	2
Finance	2
Health and Social Services	6
Human Resources	3
Industry, Tourism and Investment	4
Justice	25
Lands	3
Legislative Assembly	1
Municipal and Community Affairs	1
Public Works and Services	4
Transportation	6
Beaufort Delta District Education Authority	1
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority	25
Hay River Health and Social Services Authority	11
Aurora College	1
Business Development and Investment Corporation	1
NWT Housing Corporation	1
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission	7
Total	135
French Language Bilingual Bonus Amount Paid (Total)	\$138,657

135

Number of employees that received a bilingual bonus, a 10.5% increase from 2015-2016

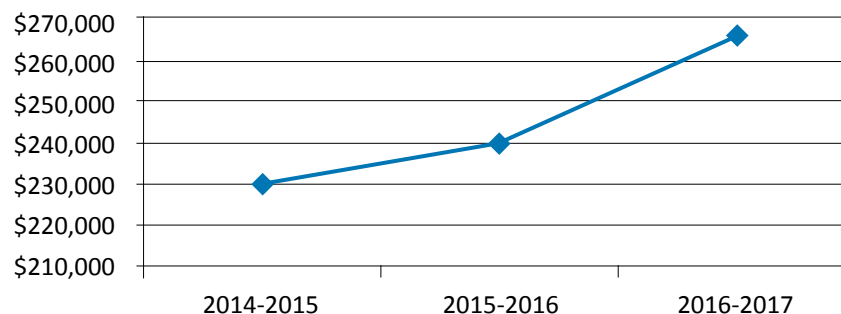
Government News Delivered in French

Government institutions issue news releases (Media Advisories, Statements and Ministerial Activities Advisories) in both English and French to keep the francophone community informed about a range of issues and government programs and services. Interviews in French are provided to the media upon request.

Radio and Print Advertising in French

Government institutions regularly put advertisements in L'Aquilon, the territorial weekly newspaper, and on Radio Taïga.

Advertising dollars in French language media:



Examples of 2016-2017 French language advertising and promotional campaigns:

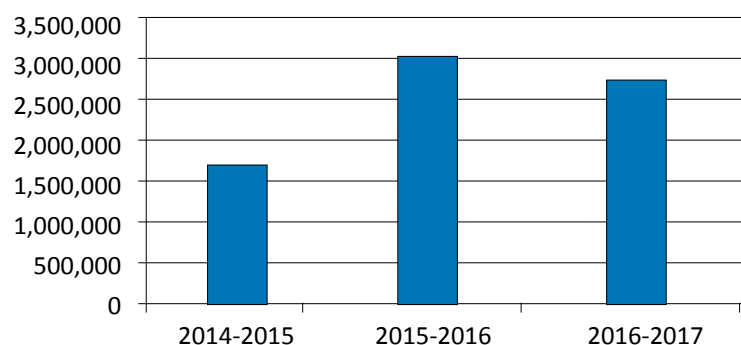
- Family Mediation
- Community Tourism Coordinator Program
- Be a Tourist in Your Own Town
- Bilingual parks notices on wildlife sightings and fire bans
- Presentations on Student Financial Assistance to parents and students
- Overview of Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten
- Housing Engagement Survey

Translation and Interpretation Services

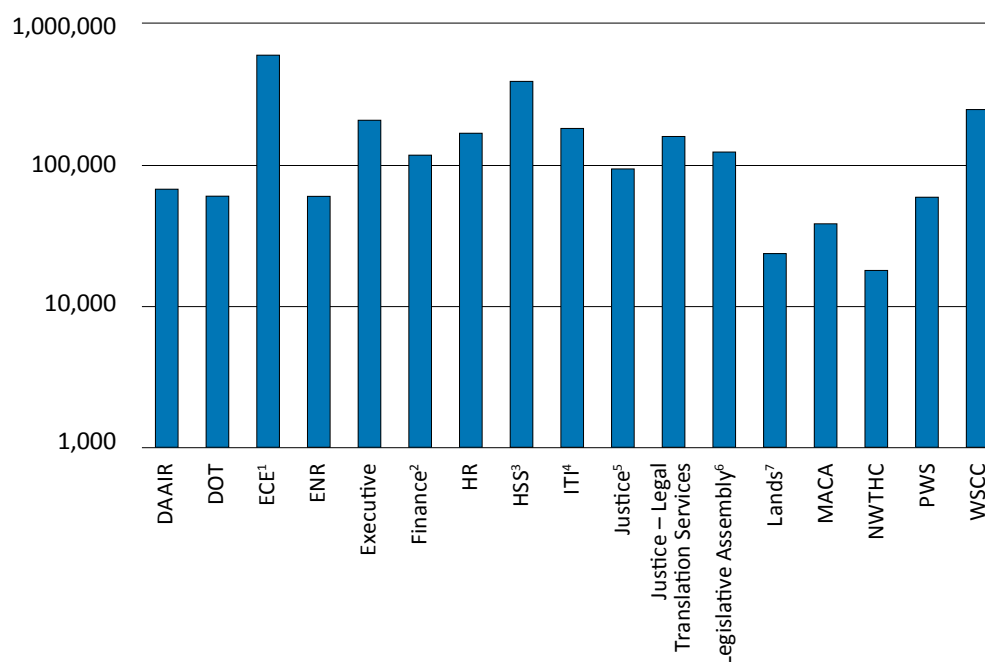
Translation services enable government institutions to increase the quantity of public information and content available in French as well as to understand correspondence and documents they receive in French from the francophone community.

During the 2016–2017 fiscal year, 2,713,136 words were translated by GNWT French Translation Services, the Department of Justice Legal Translation Services, and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. The GNWT French Translation Services translated 2,290,825 words for 35 government institutions.

Number of words translated by GNWT French Translation Services, WSCC and Legal Translation Services:



2016-2017 GNWT Translation Services word counts, by department (including WSCC and Legal Translation Services):



¹ Includes Aurora College.

² Includes Liquor Licensing Boards.

³ Includes Health Authorities.

⁴ Includes BDIC.

⁵ Includes Rental Office and Public Utilities Board.

⁶ Includes Human Rights Commission, Information and Privacy Commissioner, Elections NWT, Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Languages Commissioner.

⁷ Includes Surface Rights Board.

4,326

Number of translation requests by GNWT French Translation Services

27,672

Number of words
translated for social
media

GNWT French Translation Services notable translation projects:

Rank	Title	Number of Words
1	Job Posters and Job Descriptions	141,003
2	GNWT Mandate and Website Content	74,139
3	NWT Liquor Commission: Manuals and Forms	64,786
4	News Releases	41,028
5	ITI Website Content	31,139
6	iDMV (Online DMV Services) Website Content	29,191
7	DAAIR Website Content	25,191
8	2016 and 2017 Budget Addresses and Related Documents	24,754
9	2016 Homelessness in Yellowknife	14,966
10	Best Beginnings Manual	14,276
11	Healthy Pregnancy, Healthy Baby Manual	13,592
12	Contaminants Fact Sheets	13,299
13	2016 Public Accounts – Section I	13,145
14	Immigrate NWT Website Content and Materials	12,957
15	Roads and Campgrounds Guide	12,407

Interpretation is offered by government institutions according to the Standards. Here are some examples for the 2016-2017 fiscal year where French interpretation was provided:

- NWT Courts on two occasions
- GNWT/FFT Consultation and Cooperation Committee meeting
- Two Official Languages Board meetings
- *Right From The Start* symposium
- Annual consultation of the French community with the Minister Responsible for Official Languages.

New Initiatives

Examples of government institutions introducing new French language initiatives in 2016–2017:

- French services are now accessible at the BDIC and the business centre in person, over the phone and online.
- Completion of Testing for Bilingual Required positions and Bilingual Preferred status.
- Hiring of Bilingual Family Mediator.
- Full services offered by the Legal Aid Outreach Program.
- Update of internal and external public signage guidelines and templates for official language consistency, process and procedures, and adherence to the GNWT Visual Identity Program.
- NWT Taxation 1-800 automated system is now provided in French.
- ITI blog posts, as well as French language Facebook and Twitter accounts, are posted in French.
- Recruitment of two bilingual Justices of the Peace.
- Tour of the NWT Archives for French educators.
- New *Narrative Threads* exhibit at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.
- French Conversation Workshops during lunch hour for GNWT employees, with the help of the Collège nordique francophone.
- Active Offer Training has been incorporated into New Hire Orientation and refresher courses are offered as required.
- Active Offer Training sessions including Tool Kit information, provided to GNWT staff in all significant demand communities.
- New French phone lines enhance abilities to track French language service and evaluate needs.
- NWT Child Day Care inspection in French in Hay River.



1,019

Number of clients served in French by Heritage Education and Public Programming, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

New Publications

The 2016–2017 fiscal year saw a number of new government publications made available in French, a selection of which are presented here:

- Status of Women Council Representative Nominations
- National Aboriginal Day
- Evaluation Report of *A New Day* Program
- Victims of Crime Emergency Fund
- NWT Oil and Gas Annual Report 2015
- NWT Agriculture Strategy
- NWT Road and Campground Guide
- Economic Opportunities Strategy Progress Report
- Youth Ambassador Program Poster
- Fire Prevention Act Review – Public Engagement Form and Guide
- Outstanding Volunteer Awards book
- NWT Archives Edukit *Be a History Detective*
- NWT Archives 2017 calendar
- Contaminants Fact Sheets
- NWT Indigenous Languages Framework: A Shared Responsibility
- Dèlne amendment to schedule C
- Driver licence application form

Websites and Web Content

Government institutions maintain a range of websites that provide pertinent information to the public. Public website translation has become more consistent, in phases and based on priorities identified in their Operating Plans for French.

In light of the on-going improvements in the availability of French web content, some government institutions have begun monitoring Google analytics results of visits to French public web pages, tracking change over time. With an improved active offer, and increased demand from the community, traffic on French website pages should increase as implementation of the Strategic Plan continues.

A number of activities related to website renewal and web content development took place during the reporting period:

- Translation of most of the BDIC's website content.
- Public launch of Department of Justice French website.
- The re-design of the Public Board appointments site.
- Translation of the NWT Arts website.
- HSS, NTHSSA and Stanton Renewal website content.
- Translation of the Immigrate NWT website.
- Translation of the Department of Transportation website.

Services TNO

From April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, Services TNO processed a total of 602 requests, an increase of 15% from the previous year. Of the 602 requests, 395 were made in French, 205 in English and two in other languages. Services TNO saw a 29% increase of Francophone clients.

HSS: Health insurance, marriage certificates, misc.	99
ECE: Student Financial Assistance, general information	91
Justice: Notary Public, misc.	67
ENR: hunting permits and tags, fishing permits, etc.	61
GNWT: general information	38
NWT Liquor Licensing Board: liquor license	21
ITI: general information	12
DOT: general information	6

Policies, Guidelines and Protocols to Support French Language Services

Here are a few examples of new or updated policies, guidelines or protocols to support French language services:

BDIC	Partnership with CDÉTNO
Justice	The Rental Office has an MOU with Services TNO to be able to provide information in French on rights and obligations of tenants and landlords
Finance	MOA with Services TNO to provide on demand services
ITI	Contract with CDÉTNO for communication in French on Facebook and Twitter

Goal 3: Community Engagement

Government institutions inform and consult with the francophone community about communications and services in French.

They encourage the participation of the francophone community in the development of government policies, with a view to improving the delivery of services in French.

The government works with the francophone community to build relationships, gather input and work towards common goals.

Community Engagement and Consultations

Government institutions consulted with the French-speaking public in various ways in 2016-2017, including online surveys, telephone consultations, focus groups and face-to-face meetings.

They also worked with francophone community organizations and schools to support a number of initiatives in French.

Below are a few examples of consultations that sought input from the francophone community as well as a few samples of initiatives, presentations or participation by ministers and/or GNWT staff in French:

- BDIC staff met with Francophone organizations to present them with updates about programs and services.
- Comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPP). The ATIPP consultation package was available in French, and letters were sent in French to stakeholders to invite them to take part in the exercise. Following the review, the “What We Heard Report” was translated.
- Meetings with the Francophone community, specifically with FFT, were held in conjunction with the Francophone Affairs Secretariat.
- Consultation and cooperation meeting with GNWT/FFT.
- Participation by HR in two Café Emploi events, and additional initiatives with CDÉTNO.
- In partnership with CDÉTNO, HR hosted a Resume and Interview Skills workshop for students in École Boréale in Hay River, students at Aurora College and the Francophone community in Hay River.
- The NWT Nominee Program is a member of the Francophone Immigration network and works closely with CDÉTNO on all areas of immigration.
- A French-speaking facilitator was made available for the consultation meeting on the Inuvik airport renovations.



Immigration Francophone: Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Canadian Francophonie and Immigration met in Moncton in March 2017 to discuss Francophone immigration. Ministers agreed to work together to enhance promotion efforts aimed at French-speaking immigrants and foster their recruitment, selection and integration. The FFT and CDÉTNO were also in Moncton to participate at the 11th Symposium on Francophone immigration.

Education and French

Under the Official Languages in Education Protocol 2013-2018, signed between the federal Department of Canadian Heritage and the Council of Ministers in Education of Canada, ECE signed a five-year agreement to provide funding for French Minority Language Education and French as a Second-Language Instruction (Core French, Intensive and Post-Intensive French, and Immersion programs). The Canada-NWT Agreement offers funding divided by linguistic objectives. In both cases, projects fall under five areas of intervention:

Student Participation

- Provision of Programs
- Enriched School Environment
- Support of Educational Staff
- Access to Postsecondary Education

GNWT Language Program Expenditures – French (2016-2017)

In 2016-2017, the GNWT spent \$4,913,404 on French language services. In the same fiscal year, ECE spent an additional \$2,959,350 on French language education programming.

Description	Actual Expenditures
French Language Services	\$4,913,404
French Language Education (Note 1)	\$2,959,350
Total	\$7,872,754

Note 1: This amount does not include the expenditures incurred by education bodies to deliver French language education programming.

English

French

Cree

Ttichq

Chipewyan

South Slavey

North Slavey

Gwich'in

Inuvialuktun

Inuktitut

Inuinnaqtun

Francophone Affairs Secretariat: 867-767-9343

